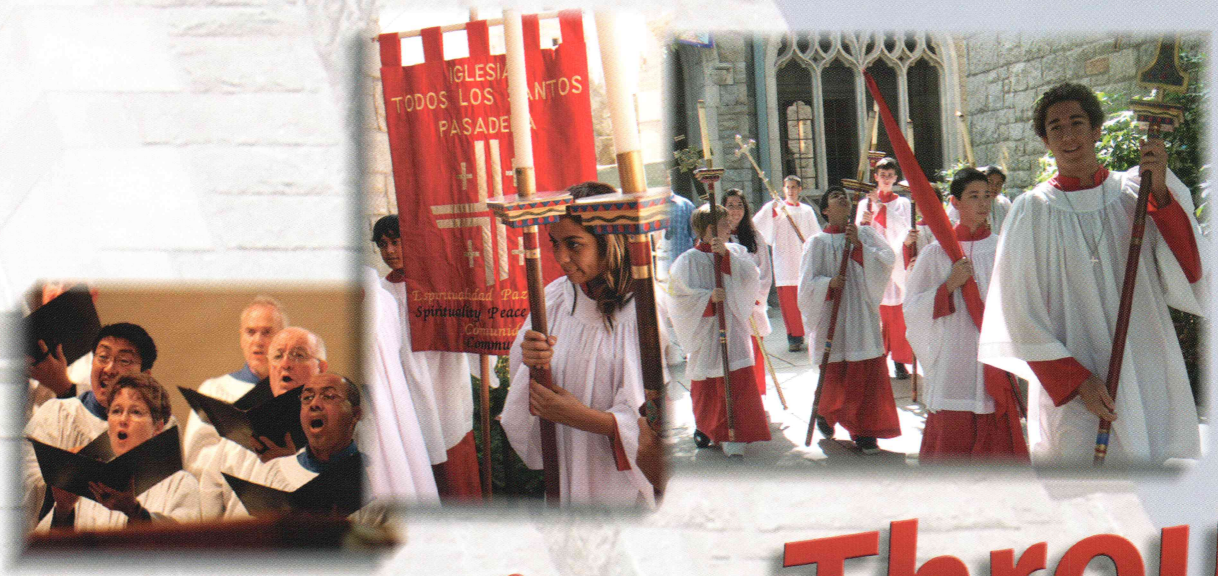
All Saints Episcopal Church
Pasadena



Breaking Through

Annual Report 2006

Dear Friends—

I love my job!

This year, as never before, I have had the opportunity to share with people All Saints' vision for living out God's inclusive love and call to justice. It is a thrilling story, which energizes me—and the people in this parish!

We have inherited a tradition of courageous and imaginative responses to many of the intractable problems of church and society from those who have gone before us—in race relations, the place of women in the church, AIDS, homelessness, children at risk, inclusive language, inclusion of gays and lesbians, immigration, opposing unjust wars, fighting genocide, and bridging interfaith divisions. A pioneering spirit is deeply embedded in our DNA.

In 2006 that pioneering spirit was alive and flourishing. We deepened our interfaith work with the visit of Boston Globe columnist/theologian James Carroll; helped couples strengthen their relationships with a 6-week course, "Couplehood as a Spiritual Path"; were energized by a visit by Desmond Tutu; celebrated our first bilingual Virgen de Guadalupe service; dramatically increased our Sunday School and Youth attendance; and grew two new weekly liturgies.

I am deeply grateful to all of you who have made God's vision live through the institution of All Saints Church. Your prayers, encouragements, and gifts have been received with deep, deep thanks. May the work reflected in these pages encourage and strengthen us together in our work to bring God's influence to earth in our daily lives.

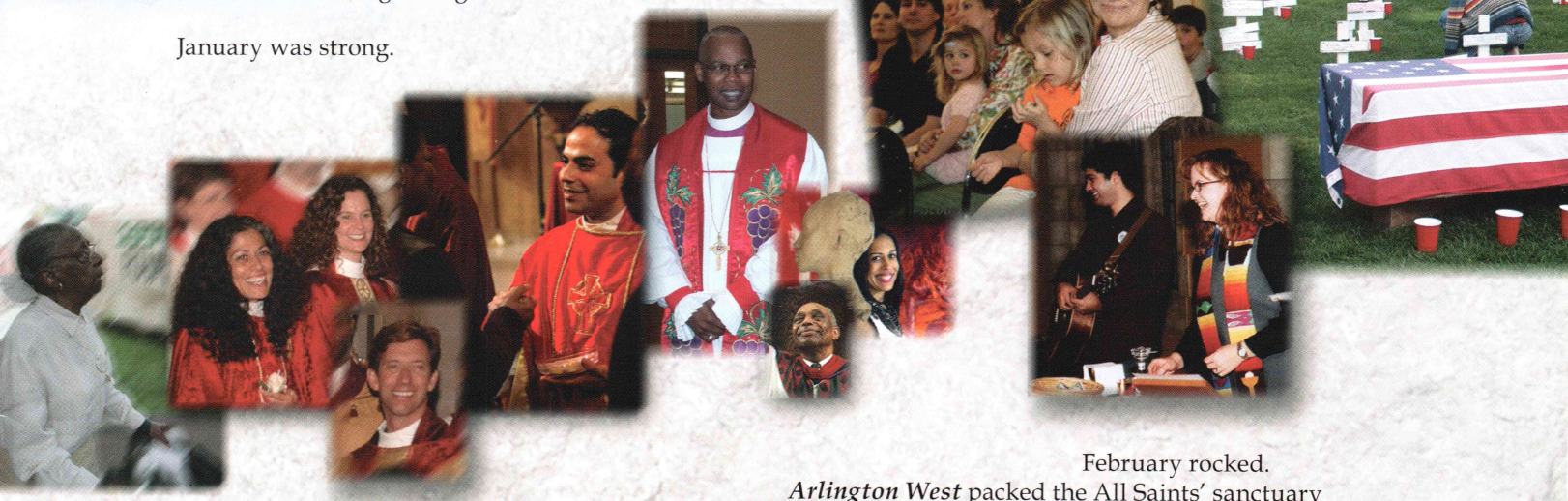
Yours in Christ's love--

Breaking Through

2006 dawned uncharacteristically for Pasadena on a Rose Parade Day, with a heavy downpour. The rain inspired the rector, who braved the storm, to deliver a rousing sermon with the most compelling description of flowered-floats that you'll ever hear.

It was a year of weddings, incredible generosity, and a spectacular array of educational offerings and events that seemed never-ending. We were breaking through to a new level … "leadership church" was a burgeoning buzzword.

January was strong.



Our favorite centenarian ***Lydia Wilkins*** not only turned 102 but was named an honorary Canon of the Cathedral Center by Bishop Jon Bruno. ***Abel Lopez*** was ordained as a priest along with 13 others, including fellow All Saintsians ***Liz Munoz, Sarah Nichols*** and ***Neil Tadken***.

Martin Luther King Sunday brought two Murrays to the All Saints Church pulpit: the Reverend 'Chip' Murray from First AME in the morning, and the Right Reverend Julio Murray, the Bishop of Panama, at the 1:00 p.m. ***Bilingual Service***. The day concluded with ***Peace & Justice Live's*** tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. Subsequent Live offerings focused on California prisons, Nobel Peace Laureates and their challenge to build a better world for our children, global warming, torture and healing, and our traditional Ballot Initiative Forum.

Other January breakthroughs included the long-awaited launch of the ***5 p.m. Saturday Celebration*** — an informal family-friendly Eucharist inaugurated with an enthusiastic congregation of 125 — and the ***Office for Creative Connections' City Conversations*** initiated Structural Racism and Community Building Roundtable Discussions. Convened to deal with the tough problems facing Pasadena, the roundtables brought together thirty-five top-level community leaders and activists who met nine times in 2006, and were called on to respond to several city crises that arose during the course of the year

February rocked. ***Arlington West*** packed the All Saints' sanctuary for an evening focused on peacemaking and ending the war in Iraq, featuring Cindy Sheehan, Martin Sheen, Jackson Browne, and Ed Bacon, who welcomed the 800 in attendance. All Saints hosted Bishop Chet Talton and 250 ninth through twelfth graders from throughout the diocese for the annual ***Bishop's Ball***. The ***College Students'*** retreat drew 25 people to the Serra Retreat Center in Malibu, and focused on different types of spirituality and their relevance to student life.

Kids' Club launched so kindergarten through fifth graders could meet weekly on Thursday afternoons to do community building and community service projects. Some 40 children created alphabet books for ***CORAL's*** literacy project, baked cookies for our ***Monday food distribution program***, raised hundreds of dollars for Alex's Lemonade Stand in support of pediatric cancer research, and prepared and presented the liturgy for All Hallows' Eve. March rushed in like a lion with Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author ***Chris Hedges*** headlining an inspiring ***Lent Event***. Chris gave three powerful speeches on Friday night, Saturday morning, and Sunday—in a Rector's Forum on the threat of the Religious Right to America that

had participants buzzing. The ***Peace & Justice Community Forum on Immigration*** drew 200.

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The rector held two packed and well-received listening sessions in the Forum about the ***vision for the new building***, and took advantage of the opportunity to answer questions from the parish.

Spring got off to a stirring musical start. The ***Mastersingers*** and ***Troubadours*** combined to perform an energetic *Moses and the Freedom Fanatics*, a delightful musical drama based on the Exodus story—followed by four girls from the ***Trouvères Mixed Ensemble*** being selected to perform in the Children's Honor Choir at the Western

Division Convention of the American Choral Directors Association in Salt Lake City. All Saints' talent goes out into the world.

Pastoral Care and Spiritual Growth instituted its ***Couplehood As A Spiritual Path*** class, taught by long-time parishioners and husband-and-wife Ph.D.s, Bruce Crapuchettes and Francine Beauvoir. Over its two-month span, the class offered an amazing program to sixty-five enthusiastic couples. Seven months of training began for ten members of a new ***Lay Guidance Ministry***, which will assist parishioners experiencing stressful life events.

Easter and Holy Week drew nearly 5,000 worshipers to services and created huge overflow crowds on Easter morning.

Call to Community put the finishing touches on April with its Barbeque and Square Dance in Sweetland Hall. And on 4/30 a team from All Saints, led by Lorna Miller and Ilean Rogers, attended a national ***Save Darfur Rally*** on the mall in Washington, D. C.

In an era when many churches struggle to get people into their pews, All Saints was blessed on a sunny May 13 to receive into its fold ***60 new members*** in a ***Confirmation Ceremony*** presided over by ***Bishop Sergio Carranza***.

In Mid-May ***Sustainable World*** offered ***On the Road to a Just Society***, where David Korten launched his new book, Gathering for a Positive Future. The event drew spirited crowds over four days with paradigm-challenging seminars and workshops split between All Saints and St. Michael's in Studio City.

On May 21, ***Trouveres, Canterbury*** and ***Coventry Choirs*** combined – 157 voices strong – to offer a thrilling concert of music old and new to an enthusiastic audience in the church.

All Saints' ***Joe Duggan*** was ordained to the transitional deaconate on Saturday, June 3, at St. John's, Los Angeles.

Sunday, June 4, was the day National Book Award-winning author and acclaimed Boston Globe columnist ***James Carroll*** came to All Saints. He preached at the morning services on *Language Is the Language of God* (joined by an impromptu visit from ***Archbishop Desmond Tutu*** bringing greetings at the 11:15 service), read from his new book *House of War* in the Forum at 12:45, then keynoted the ***Abrahamic Faiths Peacemaking Initiative's*** Event that evening to a full, excited sanctuary, presenting his original whitepaper: *Iraq, Faith and Self-Criticism: A Christian Reflects*. A stellar panel discussion followed, featuring Jews, Muslims, and Christians in pursuit of peace: civil rights attorney Connie

Rice, Muslim leader Maher Hathout, Rabbi-in-Residence Leonard Beerman, George Regas, and Ed Bacon. This, on the same day that ***Women's Council*** gathered 100 who were inspired by speakers Zelda Kennedy, Francine Beauvoir, and violinist Becky Erskine under a very hot sun at Gail Bardin's home in San Marino.

The ***Parish Retreat*** kicked off the summer in style with retreat leaders Doug and Norvene Vest facilitating the annual

weekend event at Casa de la Maria in Santa Barbara.

On Sunday, June 11, Ed gave a remarkable, energetic sermon, *An Exhuberant Affirmation of Healthy Religion: A Children's Sermon With Adult Eavesdropping*, with children gathered on the chancel steps. A children's story about the importance of loving our world-neighbors began memorably with dozens of "globe" beach balls thrown throughout the sanctuary! Surprised adults joined in enthusiastically! The Dodger's outfield bleachers have nothing on us!

The rector, Susan Russell, and numerous parishioners went to Columbus, Ohio for the Episcopal Church's ***General Convention***, which convened on June 13. Highlights of the convention included the premiere of ***Claiming the Blessing***'s video, ***Voices of Witness*** with a large audience deeply touched by its message of God's all-inclusive love. And just following the 11:15 service on June 18, Ed called Keith Holeman's cell phone from Columbus to announce, "It's a Girl!" at the election of ***new Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori***, the first woman Primate in the history of the Anglican Communion. At the announcement, Zelda Kennedy shouted, "What??!! Oh my God!!" and in response, the quad lawn erupted in applause, gasps and laughter as the good news spread – good news that even the disheartening passage of discriminating legislation on the final day didn't trump.

Camp Darfur filled the lawn with tents recreating a refugee camp, inspiring awareness, education, and action around the genocide in Darfur — and raised over $7,000 to buy solar cookers which allow refugees not to leave their internment camps in search of firewood, thereby avoiding attack by Sudanese militia. Over 500 people visited each of the tents in the camp and signed cards to the president from the Million Voices for Darfur campaign.

On June 27, members of the ***Troubadours*** and ***Trouvères*** hosted the Syracuse Children's Chorus for an Exchange Concert – both choirs performed separately, then combined to offer an exciting grand finale.

After eight months of total silence, which fostered some hope that the case might go away, the ***Internal Revenue Service*** quietly notified All Saints on July 24 that it would resume its investigation of the church. Included in the letter was a list of 13 requests for documents and information. Church leadership and counsel discussed a response.

On 8/6 and 8/15 ***PACEM*** commemorated the anniversaries of the dropping of atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima with its banner on the lawn and a series of talks on the dangers of nuclear armaments.

A record 110 children participated in the wildly popular week-long ***Summer Kids Camp***, "Adventures in Narnia." 'Snow'-covered fir trees and children burst through the wardrobe drawers

each day to explore C.S. Lewis' classic story *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

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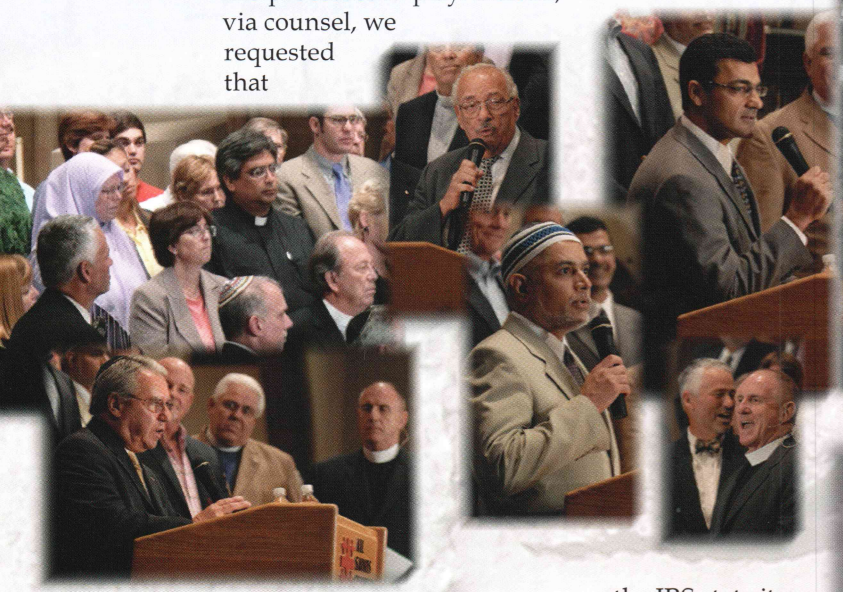
September was a month to remember. With *Bienvenidos a su Casa!* as its theme, ***Homecoming*** rang in the start of the new program year with Mexican food, song, and energetic festivities on the lawn. ***Vivien Sansour***, a native of Bethlehem, joined the All Saints staff, the result of a long and extensive international search, as the new Director of Peace & Justice.

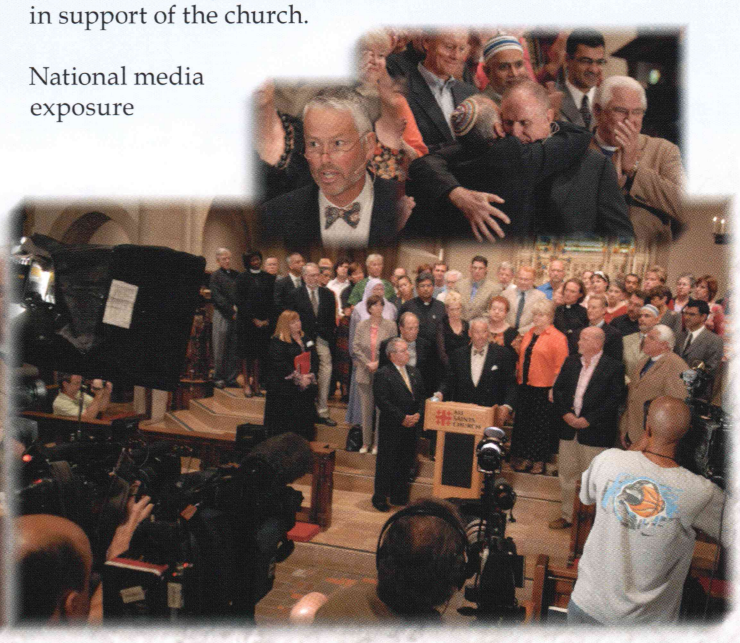
The ***Internal Revenue Service***. Church leadership determined that complying to the IRS's July "requests" for information without challenge would be to forfeit our opportunity to take it to the courts — by waiving objections to the IRS processes in play. Instead, via counsel, we requested that the IRS state its demands in the form of an administrative summons — to preserve our option of having the matter adjudicated by the courts.

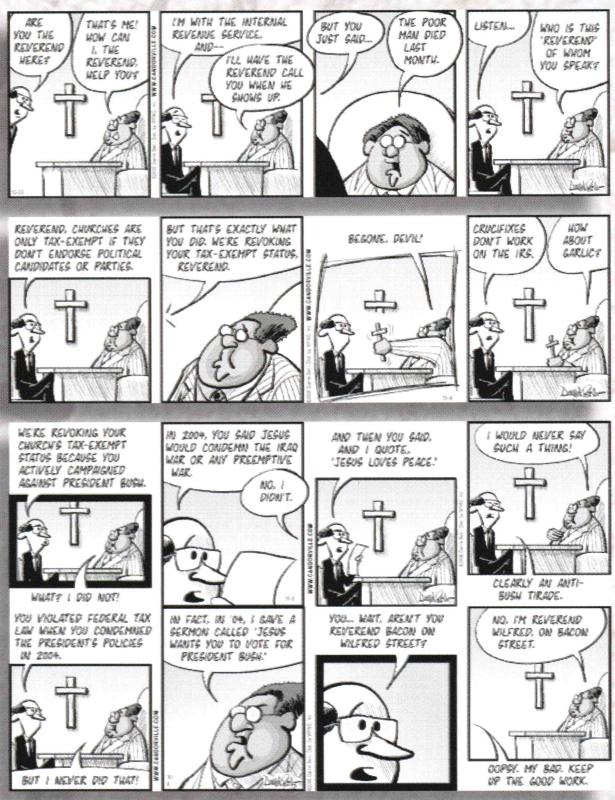


Two summonses arrived on September 15, one requesting delivery of specific documents and information, and one requesting Ed Bacon to testify before an IRS board regarding those documents and the church's practices and policies.

On Friday, Sept. 21, at a morning ***press conference*** in the church, senior warden Bob Long stood on the chancel steps, surrounded by All Saints staff and interfaith supporters from throughout the city, and told the gathered media that the "All Saints Church Vestry voted unanimously this morning to challenge the summonses of the IRS"— because it believed that the summonses intolerably infringed upon the church's Constitutional rights of freedom of speech and worship — rights crucial to the church's core mission and indispensable to other faith communities throughout the country—and violated the very IRS regulations that embody those principles. Muslim friend Shakeel Sayed then moved to the microphone and proclaimed, "I am a member of All Saints Church." Salam al-Marayati then did the same. As did Rabbis Neil Commess-Daniels and Steve Jacobs. The press conference was an emotional and inspirational show of interfaith solidarity. ***Solidarity Membership*** was born — and by year's end, the interfaith Solidarity Members numbered nearly 600 and had given over $84,000 in support of the church.

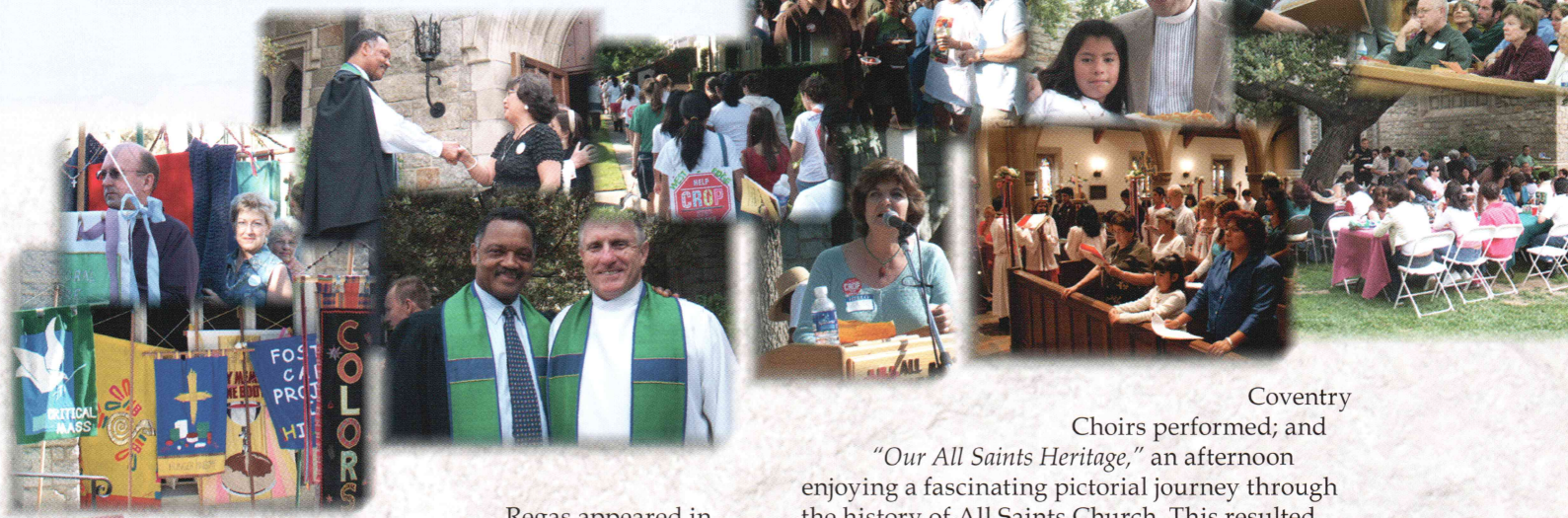
National media exposure





From "Candorville: online at http://www.rudypark.com/candorville/comics.asp

was more pronounced; the local coverage deeper than before. There was another Los Angeles Times front page article above-the-fold, more articles in the New York Times and the Washington Post, stories in national magazines, and network TV slots. All Saints was also increasingly sought out for opinions on non-IRS issues, and for stories on All Saints' work in the community ranging from the church's activism to 'sin coats.' And again, support for All Saints was overwhelming. Even *The Daily Show with John Stewart* pursued an interview with Ed. Both Ed Bacon and George Regas appeared in cartoonist Darrin Bell's nationally syndicated comic strip ***Candorville***, breaking through from being simply an item in the daily news to becoming a part of the pop culture consciousness at large.



Media attention helped our attendance and strengthened our voice to the world. From Homecoming through October, attendance was up by between 400 and 500 people per Sunday, many of whom came to see what sort of place this was. Open plate offerings through the end of the year increased by 20%.

Celebration of Ministries Sunday was alive with many of our 130 ministries holding forth at their tables on the lawn, colorfully displaying their banners, bursting with pageantry and enthusiasm. And ***the Rev. Jesse Jackson*** came to church to stand in solidarity with us.

The last weekend of September saw the ***Hearts in Hands Giant Garage Sale*** raise $4,000 for ***Bad Weather Shelter***, a joint project of the members of the Ecumenical Council of Pasadena Area Churches, to which All Saints belongs. Over two days, hundreds of parishioners donated items and dozens of volunteers made it an amazing community-building success.

In October, the ***Stewardship Committee*** coordinated celebrations of our community life at several wonderful events: a gathering of *"Twenty& ThirtySomethings"* at the home of Wilma Jakobsen; a *"Country Fair"* event for families and children of all ages; *"Some Enchanted Evening"* under the stars and twinkle lights on the Quad Lawn as the amazing soloists from Canterbury and Coventry Choirs performed; and *"Our All Saints Heritage,"* an afternoon enjoying a fascinating pictorial journey through the history of All Saints Church. This resulted in ***the 2006 Stewardship Campaign*** - *Astounding God, Abounding Grace, Abundant Giving*, "breaking through" with a first-time-ever annual pledge income total topping $4 million dollars.

On October 29, All Saints again hosted the 31st Annual ***Crop Walk Pasadena*** which raised over $40,000 for local non-profits offering service to the homeless and hungry, of which All Saints walkers raised over $6,000.

Peace & Justice's Truth to Power festival spanned two weeks in October and included films, discussions, participating in Ramadan *iftars*, and teach-ins on such social justice issues as anti-nuclear weapons, ending the Iraq war, supporting our troops, and cleaning up our neighborhoods.

On November 4, an All Saints contingent headed for Washington, D.C. Even a two hour wait in the freezing cold didn't dampen their enthusiasm about being eyewitnesses to the Investiture of ***the Right Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori*** as 26th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church and first woman Primate in the Anglican Communion.

On ***All Saints Day***, our parish feast day, nearly 400 names of friends of the parish who had died since the previous All Saints Day were read on

the necrology, as ***Coventry Choir*** and a chamber orchestra offered Morten Lauridsen's luminous Requiem Mass, *Lux aeterna*.

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The ***Bilingual Service*** celebrated its First Anniversary on November 19, and that night, 500 attended the second installment in the Abrahamic Faiths Peace Initiative, ***The War, The Pulpit and the Right to Preach***, to hear Ed, George Regas, Sharon Brouse, and Imam Jihad Turk share reflections on their experiences throughout the IRS situation.

All Saints' ***new website*** went live in November to be of service to both those in the front pew and people in the four corners of the earth! Www.allsaints-pas.org is an interesting place to be. Check it out, and let us know what you think.

At ***Diocesan Convention*** on December 1-2, Senior Warden Bob Long introduced a resolution distancing the Diocese of Los Angeles from "B033" – the discriminatory legislation adopted at General Convention in Columbus. The resolution passed overwhelmingly – after an energetic debate highlighted by an impassioned speech in support by the rector. The other All Saints convention highlight was the ordination of parishioner ***Sam Pillsbury*** to the sacred order of deacons in the Eucharist that concluded the convention.

A packed December began with ***AIDS Posada*** on the 2nd. The next day the ***Alternative Christmas Market*** brought in over $53,000 to benefit the needy through local non-profits and international organizations such as the Heifer Project, Habitat for Humanity, and Episcopal Relief and Development — and this year's new market members Get On The Bus and You Think Well. On both December 3 and 10, parishioners signed over 400 Christmas cards for soldiers in Iraq, which were delivered to the troops by Susan Russell's son, Jamie, who is a Blackhawk helicopter crew chief in Kirkuk.

Former Senator ***John Edwards*** filled the Forum for a Vroman's Bookstore event on 12/4 – it was packed, hot and buzzing with excitement.

On the 12th, All Saints celebrated the feast of ***Virgen de Guadalupe*** bilingually for the first time. On Saturday, December 16, the ***First Annual Tree Lighting*** brightened the quad lawn on a cold, rainy and blustery night, complete with hot cocoa and caroling – it actually came perilously close to being the "lighting of the branch" as wind knocked power out on the upper limbs, and custodians struggled to restore the connection.

On 12/18, a mountain of ***Sin Coats*** filled the church office like a force of nature, following Ed's sermon the day before in which he had mentioned a preacher of centuries ago who had declared that as long as the needy go coatless, any coat in your closet that is more than you need is a 'sin coat.' Who knew that that ancient pastor's words would cause an avalanche of coats for the homeless nearly 400 years later in Pasadena, California? One man brought in several brand new coats he'd gone out and bought for this, and when asked his name so we could keep a record, he replied with a smile, "God knows who I am," and left.

Also on the 18th, Diane Williams' ***Christmas Food Handout*** gave out 140 bags of food, toys and clothing to the homeless in Sweetland Hall, to top of a year in which she handed out a total of 2,750 bags of food to the homeless over a year of Mondays.

On 12/15-17, as an encore to last year's two sold-

out performances, ***Canterbury and Coventry Choirs*** returned to ***Walt Disney Concert Hall*** to enchant THREE Christmas audiences along with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Parishioner David Prather joined the choirs on stage as narrator of the event.

Attendance for ***Christmas Eve services*** was up by a remarkable 600 people over 2005, totaling 5000 for the day, and nearly 900 gifts were given from the record-setting

number of tags taken from ***Children, Youth and Families' Angel Tree***. According to the Department of Children and Family Services it was the first year no foster child in the region went without a present.

Five Weddings and A Renewal of Vows: In another breakthrough of sorts, five staff members were married in 2006! Susan Russell and Louise Brooks; Abel Lopez and Mai Ling Garcia; Dave Erickson and Heather Pittenger; Rob Ham and Heather Linsday; Anne Peterson and Stuart Coxhead; and Christine & Sheila Mackey-Mason celebrated 30 years with a Renewal of Vows ceremony.

There were ***awards***: Ed Bacon was honored by the ACLU with its *Religious Freedom Award*; Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition awarded him and George Regas its *Acts of Courage Award*; and the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California gave its *2006 Peace Award* to All Saints Church and its Leadership "for its courageous and relentless efforts in seeking justice and peace for all people."

The ***speakers and topics*** offered at the church week after week were a Who's Who and What's What of contemporary political and spiritual thought: Then-LA Times editor Dean Baquet, columnist Robert Scheer, Darfur activists Gabriel Stauring and Paul Freedman, LA Times movie critic Kenneth Turan, USC dean Laurie Brand, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Leonard Pitts, Jr., theologian Susan Thistlethwaite, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Dr. Helen Caldicott, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Nixon white house counsel John Dean, Arianna Huffington, *Inconvenient Truth* producer Laurie David, Muslim leader Maher Hathout, and Darfur activist Eric Reeves.

Transformational Journeys took groups to five destinations in 2006: nine people joined Lorna Miller on a trip to Rwanda, Wilma Jakobsen took 9 parishioners to South Africa, 13 traveled to Nogales, Mexico with Borderlinks, 15 journeyed to Malawi with Don and Mary Thomas, and five went to Agua Verde with Javier Benitez.

New Vision Partners restructured ***CORAL*** to concentrate its after school program at the fabulous CORAL facility and served 70 energetic elementary-age children in a daily after-school program operated by Neighborhood Urban Family Center. Thirty high school students attended the expanded year-round Youth Institute and another 20 youth enjoyed the new Junior High program.

Canterbury and Coventry choirs began recording the complete choral works of our composer-in-residence, Bill Cunliffe. Production will continue throughout 2007, culminating in a worldwide release of an amazing CD.

Small Groups Ministry was busier than ever. While one small group read and talked about *When Jesus Came to Harvard* another one watched

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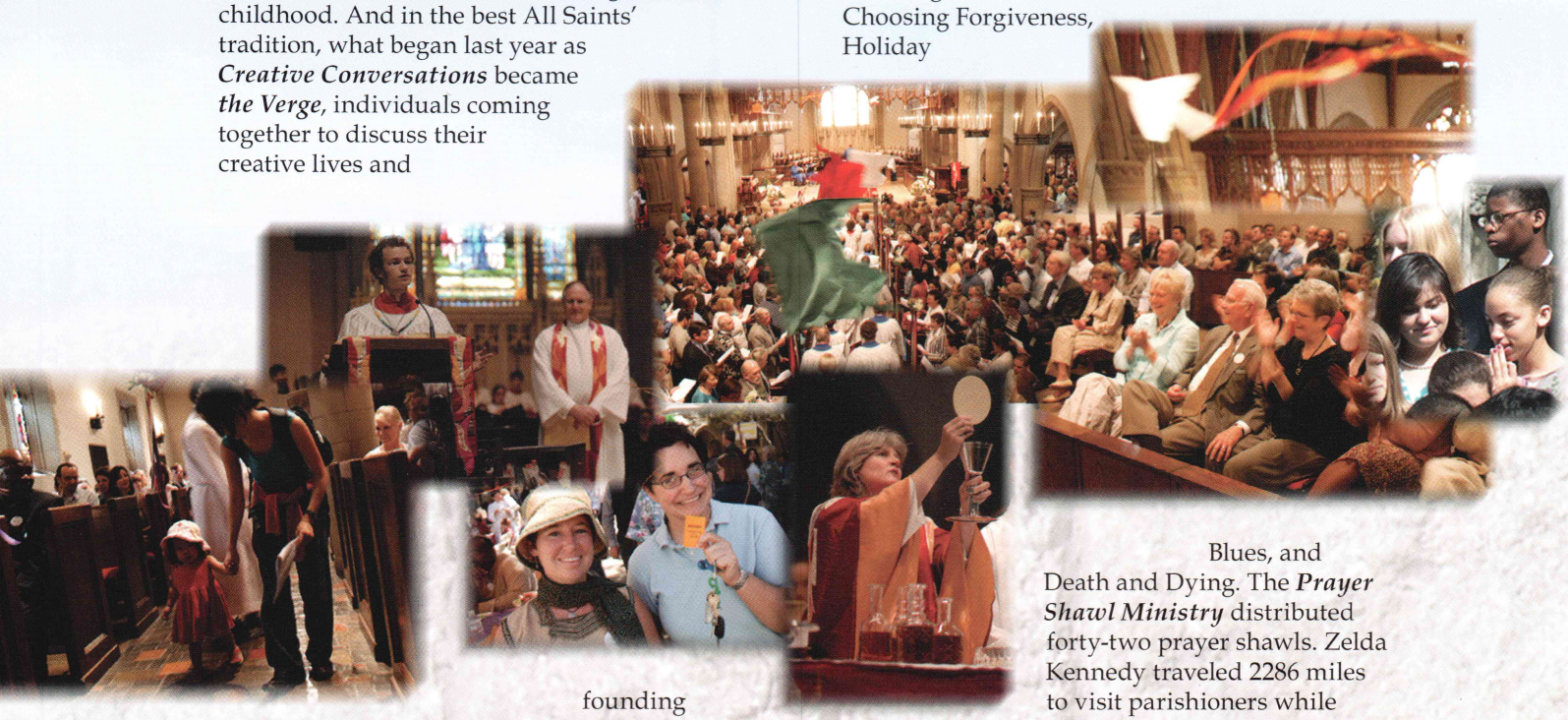
Jesus in the Movies. Book studies ranged from art to economics, from foster care in fiction to addiction recovery. ***Lectio Local*** looked at life in Southern California and ***Fiction Fun!*** read novels, both classic and contemporary. Authors ranged from Marcus Borg to Chris Hedges. The ***writing group*** produced a member who had a poem accepted for publication. ***Movies and Meaning*** presented extended series on immigration and childhood. And in the best All Saints' tradition, what began last year as ***Creative Conversations*** became ***the Verge***, individuals coming together to discuss their creative lives and founding a community that both holds conversations and makes work. And numerous novelists, historians, composers and filmmakers came to All Saints' groups to show and discuss their work in small groups.



Peace & Justice's remarkable year also included service projects such as *Get On the Bus*, in partnership with ***Women's Council***, which unites children with their incarcerated parents on Mother's Day and Father's Day; and the launching of a new ministry, ***Max Valor Prayer Project***, which offers support and prayer for veterans and current members of the military and their families. ***Around the Table*** dinner conversations for members in their 20s and 30s grew as a community of energetic young adults wanting to have a deeper connection to the church and its ministries.

Children, Youth and Families enjoyed healthy growth and several significant accomplishments in 2006. The ***junior and senior high school programs*** saw some remarkable gains over 2005. Junior High membership on Sundays doubled from 10 to 20 and jumped from 18 to 37 on Wednesday nights. Senior High also improved in all areas. The number of acolytes on Sunday mornings rocketed from 78 to 93. ***Pastoral Care and Spiritual Growth*** began 2006 with plans to strengthen its current ministries. ***The Labyrinth Ministry*** added a smaller ***seven-circuit labyrinth*** to increase the spiritual development and growth of our community.

Life transitions ministries continued to offer educational sessions in Coping with Diabetes, Breaking Free from Painful Memories, Choosing Forgiveness, Holiday Blues, and Death and Dying. The ***Prayer Shawl Ministry*** distributed forty-two prayer shawls. Zelda Kennedy traveled 2286 miles to visit parishioners while 60 Lay ministers made over 300 parishioner visits and other volunteers sent more than 350 cards to acknowledge prayer requests. There were 25 weddings and 30 funerals throughout the year.

The number of meetings held at the church in 2006 totaled nearly 11,000.

2006 was the compelling saga of a growing church, bursting at the seams with spiritual life. It was about someone moved by another exhilarating sermon or miraculous choral piece, whispering to a neighbor in the pews, "I love this church." It was about blessings from unexpected quarters, and our voice breaking through to the world telling of God's all-inclusive love. It was about standing up for our convictions and finding lots of friends out there who were thirsty for that. It was a year of amazing enrichment and non-stop inspiration. A year of living in this very special place with very special people, trying to live in the house of love rather than the house of fear. Trying to bring heaven to earth, and striving to do our part in turning the human race into the human family.

A SPECIAL UPDATE FOR THE PARISH:

Where We Are With the IRS

FROM RECTOR ED BACON, AND SENIOR WARDEN BOB LONG

On September 15, the IRS served All Saints with two summonses—the first, seeking a wide range of documents concerning the October 2004 sermon of George Regas; and the second, the testimony of Ed Bacon about those documents and our policies against campaign intervention. In considering what our appropriate response to the summonses should be, the Vestry and Ed listened to the wise counsel of our parishioners and many of our friends and supporters from outside of our parish, consulted with our legal counsel and clergy staff, and prayerfully considered our two options—compliance now or challenging the summonses first. On September 21, the Vestry voted unanimously to challenge legally, and in a court of law, the right of the IRS to proceed with either of these two summonses.

We made this decision not because we have anything to hide: Indeed, we have reviewed the most relevant of the many documents that the IRS has summoned and believe that they fully support our position that we have always been mindful of the IRS regulations against campaign intervention, respect those regulations, take steps to ensure compliance and have always been in compliance. We believe that All Saints has not engaged in campaign intervention on behalf of any particular candidate or party—not in October 2004 nor at any other time.

Rather, we made this decision because of our belief that these summonses intolerably infringe upon our Constitutional rights and the IRS regulations that embody those principles—namely, the First Amendment rights of our church to speak and worship freely—rights we see as indispensable to our core mission, as well as to that of other faith communities throughout the country.

Only by challenging the summonses at this point in time could these fundamental issues be addressed by a court of law. Had we chosen simply to comply with the summonses without a challenge, we would be waiving our objections to the summonses and the IRS processes that led to their issuance. Accordingly, we authorized our attorneys to advise the IRS by letter that we would not comply with the summonses without a court ordering us to do so and by taking this course, intended to challenge the IRS summonses in a court of law. Our attorneys have now so advised the IRS and are preparing us for that court proceeding.

It is now up to the IRS to decide whether to seek enforcement of these two summonses. Should it decide to proceed, the IRS will take the matter to the Department of Justice for its review and assistance as the attorneys for the government. In the meantime, our attorneys will be requesting a conference with the Department of Justice to explain our position and what we see as the risks to the government of proceeding in the face of our objections. If the Department decides nevertheless to move forward on behalf of the IRS, it will file a civil action know as a summons enforcement proceeding. We believe that any such case would be filed in federal court here in Los Angeles, probably before the end of the year. Once we are served with that action, our attorneys will have the opportunity to file our opposition to the petition, raising the constitutional and other objections we have to the summonses. A federal judge will then decide whether to enforce them. We would expect any such court decision to be made within 90 days or so after the action is filed.

If a judge declines enforcement of the summonses, that decision will in all likelihood end the IRS investigation. If the judge grants enforcement, we will be prepared to make a timely and complete production of all the documents that have been summoned and produce Ed to testify. Based on the documents we produce and the testimony we provide, the IRS would then come to some determination of whether, in its view, we engaged in improper campaign intervention on behalf of a particular candidate or party and what the consequences of that would be, either an excise tax based on the cost of the conduct in question or a revocation of our tax exempt status for some period of time. Should the IRS make such an adverse determination against us, we would then be entitled to challenge that determination by initiating a separate legal action of our own, either in the United States Tax Court or the United States District Court, and showing that we have been in compliance with the IRS regulations.

We remain hopeful that the IRS investigation will be concluded favorably long before any adverse determination is made, either on the summonses or the merits. We have communicated publicly and to the IRS that we fully support the principles of its regulations against campaign intervention and continue to be diligent about our compliance with them. In contrast, there appear to be many 501(c)(3) organizations across the country that seemingly have no regard for those regulations and regularly flout them, but are not under investigation. Nevertheless, as long as the IRS moves forward against All Saints, we intend to diligently defend our rights and the merits of our position at every opportunity. It is our moral responsibility to do so.

Reprinted from the October 8, 2006 issue of Saints Alive

The following people pledged generously to All Saints Church in 2006

Anonymous (87)
Shannon Acedo
Barbara Ackermann
Pedro Acosta
Greg Adams
Susan Adkins
Carol Adolph
John & Mary Ann Ahart
Gordon Ahlschwede
Paul & Anne Ahrens
Grace Ajilore
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Chuck & Judy Taylor
Eric Taylor
Judy Taylor
Melinda Taylor
Sarah Taylor & Paul Horabin
Jean Taylor-Lescoe & Dick Lescoe
Martha Ter Maat
Jim & Ilana Thach
Floyd & Libby Thaller
Debby Thomas
Diane Thomas
Don & Mary Thomas
Leslie Thomas
Harlan & Alison Thompson
Lissa Thompson
Rupert & Laura Thompson
Cooper & Laura Thornton
Ed Thurman
Rick & Becky Thyne
Hugh Tilson
Leslie Tittle
Deborah Tocco
Zoltan & Dorcas Tokes
Brian & Vicki Tomikawa
Maren Tompkins & Karen Morris
Sharon Toutant
Jack Towner
Helen Toy
Tina Treadwell
Perry & Beth Tribolet
Dorothy Trice
Rhodes & Liz Trussell
John & Lynne Tuite
Tony & Doreen Tulloch-Reid
Kathleen Tuttle
Sid & Betsey Tyler
Frieda Tyne-Fernandes
Richard & Kathleen Ulinski
Sam & Janel Umfress
Robert & Estelle Underwood
George Unger
Jolly Urner
Keith & Leona Valone

Christopher van Scoyk
Kathy Van Tassell & Terry Wick
Ken & Chris VanDerHorst
Pat VanDerVeer
Barbara Vang & Bruce Babcock
Vivian Varela
Signe Varner
David & Karen Veit
Yolanda Vera & Martha Matthews
Ravi Verma
Debra Vickroy
Larry & Jeanette Vincent
Bert Voorhees & Catherine Arias
David Vossler & Tracey Tierney
Terry & Kris Vreeland
Harlan & Anna Waite
Dusty Wakeman & Szu Wang
James Walker
Scott Walker
William Walker & Kelly Ziegler
Lee Wallace
Rae Wallhausser
Julie Wang
Alicia Ward
Barry Ward
Joanna Ward
Tom Warren
Jocelyn Frost Washington
Loren Watkins
Jim Watterson
Ed Webb & Vicki Rogers
Joe & Diane Webb
Margot Webb-Foltz & Jim Foltz
Andy & Merari Weber
Craig Weber
Mike & Karen Weed
Candace Weigand
Betty Weigel
Barry & Sande Weiss
Susan Welch
Frank & Mayris Wells
John & Judy Wells
Marilyn Turnage Wells & John Wells
Marjorie Wells
Mark Welz & Mark Beall
Carolyn Wendt & James Dutcher
Lu Wenneker
Alan & Jewell West
Richard West & Eric Fischer
Andrew Westall & Gina Montoya
Bill Wheaton
Mike & Cyndia Wheeler
Phil Wheeler
Jim White
Richard White
Rosemarie White
Bob & Gwen Whitson
Helena Wiebe
Johanna Wiebe
Tiona Wierman
Tom & Shannon Wiggins
Woody Wiggins
Brant Wiley
Lydia Wilkins
Bob Williams
Bud Williams
Sterling & Glenda Williams
Verne & Diane Williams
Clark Wilson
Craig Wilson
Robert G. Wilson
Victoria Deise & Peter Wilson
Jim & Allison Wilt
Paul Wims
Tomoko Winn
Janet Witkin
Michael Paul Wong & Renee Payan Wong
Sally Wong
Ken Wong
Rev John Woodall
Joan Woods
Mark Woods & Kim Douglas
Karen Worden
Joanna Worthley & Betsy Crighton
Trula Worthy-Clayton
Sally Wright
Linda Wright-Malkson
Sharon Wulfensmith
Aimee Wyatt
Tessa Yao
Catherine Yerly
Manson Yew
Sally Yingling & Tracy Webb
Gale Young
Bob Young & Sally Martin Young
Rex & Marie Yung
Leo & Barbara Zafonte
Dale & Laurie Zeh
Bruce Zisterer
Dabney Zorthian
Joe & Alex Zucco

MEMORIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN IN THE NAME OF:

Nathaniel Allen
Clara N. Baskett
Rosalia M. Casaus
Otis Chandler
Spencer Cheng
Chuck Detoy
Jan "Yetti" Deyo
Tom Falkenberg
Marilyn & Joseph French
Gail Charlena Griest
Irene "Ronnie" Groff
John F. Horn
Nelson Leonard
Virginia & James Mason
Virginia McNamara
Robert Miller
Wordie Mobley-Merritt
Coleman Morton
Lenore Norwood
Janett L. Nugent
Kenneth O. Rhodes
Charmian "Charm" Robinson
Dr. David Schumacher
Sandy Squires
Dorothy "Dolly" Reed Wageman
Ludmilla Warkentin
Benjamin Yhap

IN 2006, ALL SAINTS CHURCH WAS HONORED TO RECEIVE BEQUESTS FROM THE ESTATES OF:

The Rev. Noble L. Owings, Sr.
Kenneth O. Rhodes
Charmian "Charm" Robinson
Dorothy "Dolly" Reed Wageman

We regret the omission of any names due to clerical error. For any update or omissions, please contact the Stewardship Office at 626.583.2736.

If you would like to make a pledge to All Saints Church for 2007, please contact the Stewardship Office at 626.583.2736

Breaking Through
Stewardship 2007

Annual Report designed by Chris VanDerHorst, written by Keith Holeman, and photographs by Bill Youngblood, Cam Sanders, Keith Holeman and friends.

PASADENA STAR-NEWS
Sunday, October 1, 2006 www.pasadenastarnews.com

...ll Saints thrust into spotlig...

IRS inquiry earns church national attention

...y Janette Williams
Staff Writer

...adena — An IRS investi... would not necessarily ...een the Rev. Ed Bacon's ...board of choice to ...al prominence for All ...Episcopal Church.
...now the rector and his ...y, liberal 3,500-member ...gation have enthusiasti... ...ken center stage in the ...ing debate: When does free speech cross the line from sermonizing to politicking? When or should the Internal Revenue Service be involved?

The savvy pastor quickly recognized how the IRS inquiry into an anti-war sermon at the church could be used instead to promote its religious message of peace and love.

"Yes, I absolutely relish this platform to talk about our core values," Bacon said. "It's fair to say we've taken this opportunity to talk about fighting unjust wars, eliminating poverty, human rights. It's the heart of our faith."

When church leaders announced from the altar Sept. 21 they would not comply with IRS summonses demanding church documents and Bacon would not testify at an IRS hearing on Oct. 11, it was covered by national television and print media.

The extent of nationwide interest in the year-long All Saints-versus-IRS saga has surprised him, Bacon said. He's had more than 700 phone calls and about 1,000 e-mails, only 28 of them negative, he said, from across the political spectrum; and All Saints has signed ...

The IRS ran... investigation... political acti...

B2 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2006 LOS ANGELES TIMES CALIFORNIA

Rector Ponders Next Move in IRS Showdown

The agency is investigating whether a guest sermon at the Rev. Ed Bacon's Pasadena church violated tax law.

both pastor and prophet. ... My own feeling is that the IRS could have chosen a weaker target."

Bacon says one of his first encounters with the divine came when he was about 5 and playing alone in a pine grove behind his home and the Baptist church where his father was pastor in Macon, Ga. Suddenly, he was overwhelmed by a mysterious sense with a twofold message: You are the most beloved creature in all creation, and so is everyone else.

The experience, he recalled with a laugh, "opened me up to the phenomenon of paradox at a very early age. Years later, a student jokingly described it as 'the theology of the multiplicity of superlatives.' "

His next major epiphany came while he was a student at Vanderbilt University Law School in Nashville and in the middle of an exam. A series of questions arose from his depths.

Are you an attorney?

"No," he answered to himself silently.

Well, then, do you need a law degree?

"No."

Well, then, do you need to finish this exam?

The answer seemed obvious. As Bacon recalled, "I walked. And it was the most liberating experience of my life."

About the same time, Bacon made a difficult choice and persuaded his local draft board to grant him conscientious objector status. In lieu of military service during the Vietnam War, he worked with disabled children. In 1971, he was ordained a minister in the Gospel of Ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention, the same denomination as his father. It would take more than a decade to find his way to the more liberal Episcopal Church.

Ed Bacon

Position: Rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena.

Age: 58

Career highlights: Dean of Cathedral of St. Andrew in Jackson, Miss.; rector of St. Mark's in Dalton, Ga.; dean of students and campus ministry, Mercer University in Macon, Ga.

Education: Mercer University, bachelor's degree in English literature; Vanderbilt University School of Law, three semesters; Emory University, master of theological studies, doctoral work in theology and personality.

Source: All Saints Episcopal Church

ing.

Tax law prohibits tax-exempt organizations, including churches, from endorsing or opposing candidates.

What has set the 3,500-mem...

Church Votes to Fight Federal Probe

Pasadena's All Saints Episcopal parish boar... challenges a request to... turn over documents i... a case over a 2004 antiwar sermon.

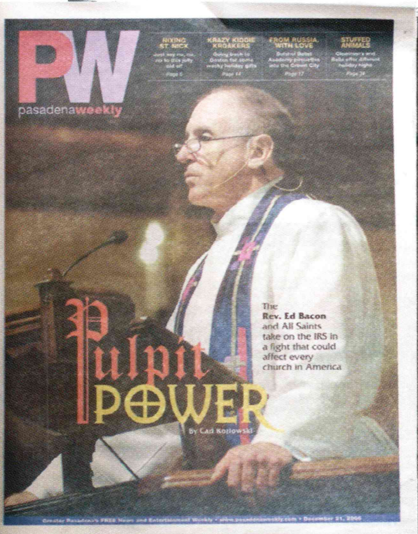
By Louis Sahagun

CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES TIMES

Photographs by Genaro Mol...

Ordination in Midcity

The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold III, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, ordains 14 new priests who lie prone on the floor of Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles. At right, Griswold lays hands on Neil Alan Tadken, one of the new priests, at the Saturday morning ordination ceremony at the Wilshire Boulevard church.



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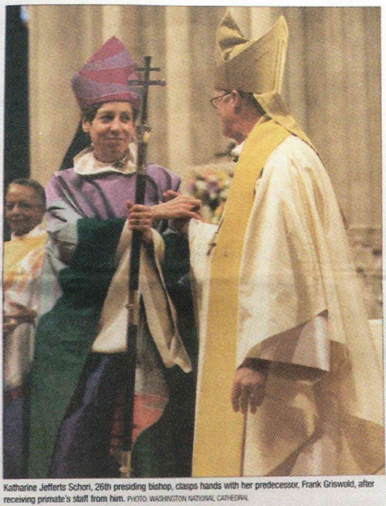


Katharine Jefferts Schori, 26th presiding bishop, clasps hands with her predecessor, Frank Griswold, after receiving primate's staff from him. PHOTO: WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

Jefferts Schori calls church to community of *shalom*

26th Presiding Bishop invested in National Cathedral rites

The sermon that provoked the IRS

An excerpt from the address at All Saints in Pasadena offers a window into the IRS campaigning probe and the church's defiant response.

So what exactly did a priest say to get a Pasadena church in trouble with the IRS?

The federal agency has launched an investigation into the activities of All Saints Episcopal Church, asking whether a sermon by a former rector before the 2004 presidential campaign constituted campaigning. As tax-exempt organizations, churches are barred from campaigning for candidates.

The sermon, delivered Oct. 31, 2004, by the Rev. George F. Regas, was framed as a debate involving Jesus, President Bush and his Democratic challenger, Sen. John F. Kerry of Massachusetts.

In September, the church announced that it would not comply with an IRS summons demanding that All Saints turn over materials with political references, such as sermons and newsletters, produced during the 2004 election year. The current rector, the Rev. Ed Bacon, did not obey a summons that ordered him to testify before IRS investigators.

The church continues to set a defiant tone. On Sunday, All Saints will sponsor a conference called "The War, the Pulpit and the Right to Preach." It will include workshops on conflict resolution, tax law and "Prophetic Traditions and Free Speech." Regas and Bacon are scheduled to speak.

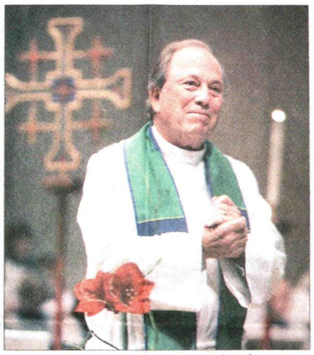
But did Regas' speech violate federal laws? The answer, mostly likely to come from the courts, hinges on how one defines campaigning and interprets his remarks.

An extended excerpt from the sermon appears below. It represents about a third of the text. The complete address can be found at www.latimes.com/beliefs.

— Steve Padilla

Good people of profound faith will be for either George Bush or John Kerry for reasons deeply rooted in their faith. I want you to hear me on this. Yet I want to say as clearly as I can how I see Jesus impacting your vote and mine. Both Sen. Kerry and President Bush are devout Christians — one a Roman Catholic and the other a Methodist.

Against the teachings of Jesus, listen in as Kerry and Bush debate three hugely important issues this morning: ending war and violence, eliminating ...



Anacleto Rapping Los Angeles Times

AT ISSUE: *The sermon on Oct. 31, 2004, by the Rev. George F. Regas was framed as a debate among Jesus and President Bush and his Democratic challenger, Sen. John F. Kerry of Massachusetts.*

children are dead. Oh, the cost of your war.

brings mercy and revenge brings revenge. Tragi...

and the 30,000 children under 5 years of age a... the globe who die every day of malnutrition... hunger. My heart can hardly bear it."

Jesus confronts both Sen. Kerry and Pres... Bush: "I will tell you what I think of your war... sin at the heart of this war against Iraq is yo... lief that an American life is of more value th... Iraqi life. That an American child is more pre... than an Iraqi baby.

"God loathes war. At the time of the trau... Sept. 11 you did not have to declare war. You... have said to the American people and the w... 'We will respond but not in kind. We will not s... avenge the death of innocent Americans b... death of innocent victims elsewhere, lest w... come what we abhor.' "

Jesus continues: "Mr. President, your do... of preemptive war is a failed doctrine. Fo... changing the regime of an enemy that posed... minent threat has led to disaster. It will take... for the widely felt hostility in Iraq and arou... world to ebb. The consequences of arrogan... companied by certitude that the world's mos... erful military can cure all ills, should be burne... America's memory forever.

"President Bush, Sen. Kerry, will you sa... from all this suffering? But God's only han... yours and all who call upon my name. In the... of great suffering, I call out to you: 'Blessed a... peacemakers, for they shall be called the ch... of God.' "

Jesus turns to President Bush again with... sadness. "Is what I hear really true? Do you... mean that you want to end a decade-old ban o... veloping nuclear battlefield weapons, as well... during the creation of a nuclear 'bunker-b... bomb? Are you really going to resume nuclea... ing? That is sheer insanity.

"This only encourages nations to build th... clear arsenal in defense against you. This is mo... indefensible."

Jesus grows more insistent. "The developm... of battlefield nuclear weapons and threate... their use against 'rogue' nations and willin... strike first is a dangerous change of policy. Th... winnable nuclear war is the greatest illusion. I... indignant when I hear people in your governm... saying a nuclear war could end for anyone as a... tory."

Everything I know about Jesus would have... uttering those words. From my own study, pra... reflection and dialogue, I say that nuclear w... the enemy. Anyone who can avoid seeing the... ror of that has lost his soul. The political re...

Donald Preston Monrovia Jack Wilson Rowland Heights

IRS investigation of church subjective

By Rep. Adam Schiff

GUEST VIEW

On Halloween, two days before the last presidential election, Rev. George Regas gave a sermon at All Saints Church in Pasadena with the provocative title: "If Jesus debated Senator Kerry and President Bush."

This sermon prompted the IRS to ...

lines of a sermon a congregant can discern the political leanings of the clergy?

Some in our community undoubtedly feel that Rev. Regas' sermon went too far, others not far enough.

But I fear that it is beyond the compe...

He expressed his conviction that places of worship should not become the organizing arms of campaigns, and I agree with him.

They should not operate phone banks, walk precincts, fund candidates or make endorsements.

But they should — I believe must — have the power to speak to the seminal issues of the day, questions of war and peace, poverty, justice and faith.

All Saints, IRS on collision cour...

By Fred Ortega
Staff Writer

Church officials hint they may defy summo...

PASADENA — The congregation of All Saints Episcopal Church cheered defiantly Sunday when it was suggested that the church might not comply with an Internal Revenue Service summons, foreshadowing what could turn into a legal battle between All Saints and the feder...

summons Friday. It requests a number of church documents relating to a guest sermon by former rector George Regas, given two days before the November 2004 presidential election, in which Regas was critical of President George W. Bush's policies on the Iraq war ...

ing either presidential candidate in his sermon.

The IRS is asking for all documents detailing church policy on political campaigning, guest sermons and responses to the IRS summons itself to be turned over by Sept. 29, and that the current rector, the Rev. ...

church's tax-exempt status as a religious organization.

In his sermon Sunday, Bacon characterized the summons as an attack on the church's constitutional rights of freedom of religion and expression.

"This church cannot be silent or indifferent in the face of ...

adding that church ... have been conferring w... lawyers and will ... whether to comply w... summons this week.

He suggested that i... the IRS request would ... church the chance to r... case in a court of law...

congregation.

YOU BETTER — THURSDAY, MARCH 2 - MARCH 8, 2006 VOLUME 11,
MONROVIA WEEKLY, PASADENA INDEPENDENT, SIERRA MADRE WEEKLY & LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE WEEKLY WWW.PASADENAINDEPENDENTW...

Sheehan at All Saints Church

All Saints Church in Pasadena staged a mini "Arlington West" outside the church Saturday night with more than 100 cros... some of the names of soldiers killed in Iraq. Below, Cindy Sheehan mourns the loss of her son Casey in the war in Ira... is perhaps best known for her protest outside Bush's Crawford Texas Ranch. -Photos by Terry Miller

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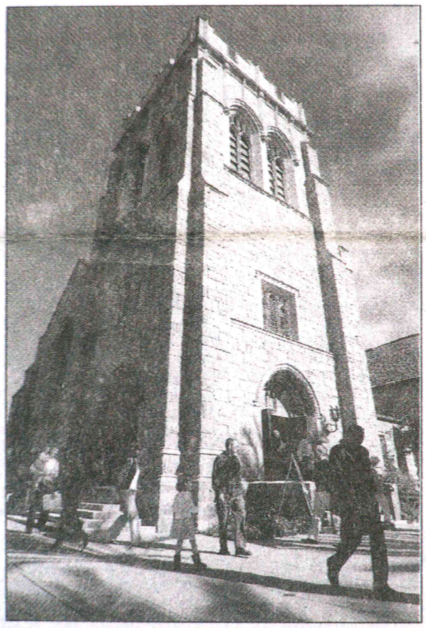
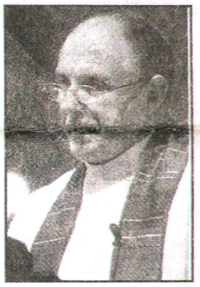


All Saints Church



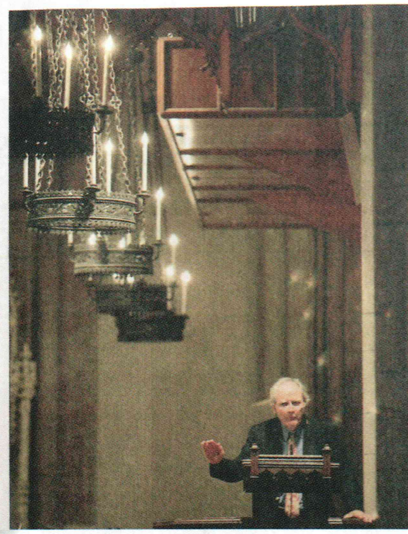
A politically charged sermon at All Saints Church in Pasadena triggered an IRS investigation into whether the church was violating its tax-exempt status. The sermon in question was delivered by Rector Emeritus George Regas in 2004, just before the presidential election. In the sermon, Regas imagined what Jesus would say if he were debating President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry. The church learned of the investigation in June and Rector Ed Bacon, above, announced the investigation to parishioners in November, when it became clear the IRS was pursuing the matter.

See story for more details.

Faiths Find Common Ground Against War in Iraq

igious leaders form erfaith Peacemaking ject in an effort to ct U.S. policy.

TEPHEN CLARK
Staff Writer



ne buttoned-down Episco- n minister was the first to d up and introduce himself. came a Jew wearing a yar- e. Then a Palestinian Chris- attired in black clericals. a Muslim cloaked in an hijab.

n and on they went, 50 peo- representing three faiths, clothing a reminder of their ences but their presence a of unifying goals: to oppose var in Iraq, change U.S. for- policy and find common ad among three religions.

ey gathered in a large ng room at All Saints Epis- Church in Pasadena on day as part of the Interfaith emaking Project, a new ini- e that aims to rally Chris- Jews and Muslims against var. They began their work tiquing a speech they heard ight before by James Car- n author, former Catholic and, now, antiwar activist. rroll was the first of three ers scheduled for this year. David Saperstein, direc- the Religious Action Cen- Reform Judaism, and Ira- human rights attorney Ebadi, a Nobel Peace winner, are the other two. talks are intended to lay roundwork for the peace tive — and to prompt frank ssions among members of ree faiths all linked to the et Abraham.

e're trying to start a new ssion of what religion is ," said the Rev. ector emeritus ead of the proj his speech bef

antiwar marches in Southern California.

But observers say the group's status has diminished. Even Regas acknowledges that it lacks deep involvement from the Jewish and Muslim communities making the coalition launc this week necessary.

"This is just another effor a new level," Regas said.

Coalition leaders, who knowledged that the antiwa forts have lacked urgency momentum, noted that the m ern civil rights movement the fight against the Viet War took years to gain nati prominence. They believe t movement is finally taking o

All Saints Church has bu reputation for its left-wing p cal activism, which has so times led to trouble. In 200 the eve of the presidential tion, Regas delivered an ant sermon that triggered an inv gation into the church's ta empt status by the Internal enue Service. No action has taken yet.

Still, All Saints has slowed its political pace.

The Monday particip split up into groups, diss Carroll's speech and bou ideas off one other. The produce a draft of an inte charter, which will be sent t 900 people who heard C speak. Those people have September to respond, whe next speaker's appearan scheduled.

The 50 participants ho complete the draft within months.

The ultimate goal is to send the charter to faith communities across Los Angeles as a teaching tool.

The participants agreed that, besides the quest for peace, the doctrines of morality and forgiveness linked the three faiths. ...ey struggled to reconcile ...e viewpoints in their own ...s and sometimes veered

tians rejected the notion that they fall into two categories — right wing or left wing.

Many acknowledged the herculean task of working across religious lines and ending a war.

"We don't see one another

"I have the same skepticism for organized religion that I do for organized crime," said Rice, the secular humanist.

She wondered how unity was possible when each religion believes in ancient texts that declare the supremacy of that faith's God. Throughout history, she said, such declarations have led to violence. "How do you get beyond that hurdle?" she asked.

Donations of jackets swamp local church

WALT MANCINI / STAFF

...N OF GOODWILL: Dale Sorenson of Los Angeles donated 12 ...s to the needy, including this classic bomber-style jacket, ...earing a sermon at All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena.

BY JANETTE WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

PASADENA — It's not up there with lust, wrath and that seasonal favorite, gluttony. But if you have more than one coat in your closet when others have none, it's your official "sin coat."

Judging by the quantity of faux fur and tweed piled up in the rector's office at All Saints Episcopal Church on Tuesday, there was enough closet sin going on in Pasadena to clothe the multitudes.

Sunday's sermon by the Rev. Ed Bacon contained a simple message from John the Baptist: "If you have two coats, share with the person who has no coat."

To drive the message home, Bacon also quoted a fourth-century bishop preaching on an ear-

Please turn to JACKETS / Page 9

Religion

Taxman caught in the middle

In election year, IRS is ensnared in politics of the pulpit

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — The IRS is increasingly being asked to referee disputes over whether churches are improperly engaging in partisan politicking from the pulpit. And some fear the trend could endanger the taxman's neutrality.

Months before November's midterm elections, the Internal Revenue Service warned that it would be scrutinizing churches to make sure they do not violate their tax-exempt status. Groups both liberal and conservative have responded by lodging numerous complaints against churches with the IRS.

"Any citizen can form a group and spy on all these churches and report the results," said Ed McCaffery, dean of the University of Southern California School of Law and a tax law expert. "This entanglement of church and state vis-a-vis the tax laws is deeply out of control."

Churches can be important political forums during election season. Under federal tax law, churches can discuss politics, but if they endorse candidates or parties, they can be stripped of their tax-exempt status.

The IRS saw a spike in complaints of partisan politicking in 2004, the last national elections.

More recently, a group of pastors in Ohio filed a complaint with the IRS against two megachurch pastors they

black, churches on his Web site during the last presidential contest. He referred several cases to the IRS, he said, and has received two more during this year's midterm contests.

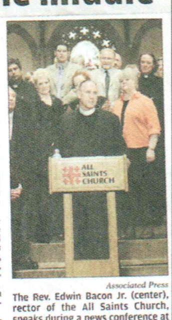
"I actually believe that what I'm doing with this is wrong, but I'm doing it in a defensive nature," said Murray, executive director of the Religious Freedom Action Coalition. "Somebody has to defend the conservative churches and the only way to protect them is to attack the liberal churches."

Some of those familiar with the IRS say recent changes in how the agency handles such cases could make it more vulnerable to political manipulation.

Until 2000, the decision to investigate churches and charities was made by one of a few high-ranking regional commissioners. Now that decision is made by a lower-level administrator, who may be less politically attuned, said Marcus Owens, All Saints' attorney and a former IRS administrator.

"What was not intended to be a biased audit program is at risk of becoming one," Owens said.

Steve Miller, commissioner of the IRS' tax exempt and government entities division, dismissed such concerns, saying each complaint is reviewed by a three-person panel before being forwarded to the administrator. The decision to investigate a church must also be approved by an attorney, he said.



Associated Press

The Rev. Edwin Bacon Jr. (center), rector of the All Saints Church, speaks during a news conference at his church in Pasadena, Calif. His church refused to cooperate with an IRS investigation.

after running newspaper ads against Bill Clinton in 1992.

In fact, Miller said half of all complaints are immediately thrown out as

PASADENA STAR-NEWS

Tuesday, December 5, 2006 www.pasadenastarnews.com

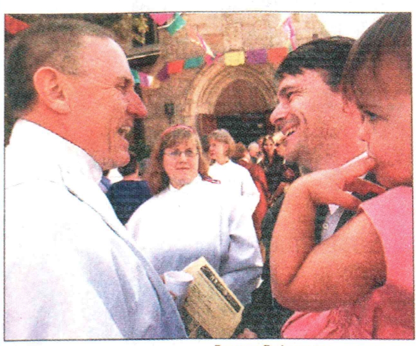
TOM THOMPSON / CORRESPONDENT

MAN OF THE PEOPLE: Former vice presidential candidate Sen. John Edwards pauses to receive a standing ovation when he spoke to an overflow crowd Monday at All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena.

Edwards in Pasadena sounds like candidate

'It's a very tough call we have to make.'

Bob Long,
All Saints' senior layman
and a retired attorney



RICARDO DEARATANHA *Los Angeles Times*

FULL HOUSE: *The Rev. Ed Bacon greets parishioner Douglas Smith. The rector had a standing-room-only crowd Sunday.*

Pasadena Church May Fight IRS Summons

All Saints' rector seeks legal and lay opinion on response to probe over

Bacon said he would consult with attorneys and church officials before deciding a course of action but that the vast majority of parishioners with whom he

Los Angeles Times

Sermon Moves IRS to Act

Antiwar remarks at All Saints in Pasadena were made two days before the 2004 election. The church is ordered to hand over records.

didates in an election.

Facing the possible loss of his church's tax-exempt status, Bacon said he plans to inform his roughly 3,500 active congregants about the investigation during Sunday's services. Then he plans to seek their advice on whether to comply.

The congregants will have two choices: consent to the IRS request, or decline, which could result in the matter being referred to the Department of Justice and, possibly, U.S. District Court in Los Angeles, All Saints' lead attorney Marcus Owens said.

...urch May Resist Cooperating With IRS

STOIC: *The Rev. Ed Bacon discusses the IRS issue at All Saints Episcopal Church. He said the vast majority of parishioners with whom he spoke thought the church should resist the IRS' demand for records involving a guest sermon before the 2004 presidential election.*

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TAKING A STAND: *The Rev. Ed Bacon receives a hug from Muslim leader Maher Hathout after All Saints announced it won't comply with the IRS. The church has created a new category of membership for supporters of other faiths wishing to help its cause.*

Church Challenges IRS in Tax Probe

[*Church, from Page B1*] to reach out to people of faith lures religious organizations into dangerous legal territory."

The goal, Gaddy said, is to avoid the kind of partisan politicking recently aired in a televised campaign ad for Rep. Har-

back to 1954. What is new is a concern over the level of prohibited activity that the IRS has been seeing by charities and churches in recent years. A recent IRS report reviewed 87 completed cases of alleged illegal campaigning by nonprofits in

wishing to join the cause.

"We smell intimidation," said Maher Hathout, chairman of the Islamic Center of Southern California. "It smells rotten, and we should not allow any aspect of intimidation to be directed to any

judge could order the church to produce the documents or face sanctions, including fines.

"It's very difficult to beat a summons in court," said Ed Robbins, an attorney specializing in tax exemption litigation. "At the

PASADENA STAR-NEWS

Tuesday, September 19, 2006 www.pasadenastarnews.com 50c

Schiff defends priest's sermon

IRS probing Pasadena's All Saints church

By KENNETH TODD RUIZ and JANETTE WILLIAMS, Staff Writers

Please turn to CHURCH / A6

IRS abuses power in All Saints case

By SHAKEEL SYED

ROMANS craftily taxed small farmers, artisans and businesses but exempted the senatorial class, the descendants of anyone who had served in the Roman senate. Farmers who could not pay their taxes were enslaved (along with their wives and children) and had to give their lands and themselves to the local members of the senatorial class, losing both their freedom and their farms.

History shows us that tax collection is often used by the state as a chief instrument of power. From the ancient Egyptians and Romans to the recent British Empire and now to the emerging Empire of the United States of America, both taxes or the lack there-of is meant to demonstrate power.

The state is now using that power against All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena over a 2004 sermon by the Rev. George Regas in which he said

GUEST VIEW

The role of tax agencies throughout history was to serve as the bullies of the monarchs and dictators. The IRS is no different.

course from the pulpit is evil, said the tax collector and threatened to take away the church's 501c3 (tax exempt) status, one of the key benefits awarded by the state.

Hypocrisy of the tax collector of our time, aka the Internal Revenue Service, cannot be but at its worst.

The spiritually and socially responsible All Saints Church is being threatened for merely calling for justice to the destitute and impoverished, while the

empires. The emerging American Empire has a lesson to learn from history.

The role of tax agencies throughout history was to serve as the bullies of the monarchs and dictators. The IRS is no different.

Raising noise on the sermon was not effective enough, so the IRS is now summoning All Saints to submit heaps of accounting records and other print material to find something that can stick.

Selective enforcement of any good law is a demonstration of corrupt power. And auditing corrupt power is good for the health of our society.

501c3 or not. The call to redress inequities and injustices often begins from the pulpit. And that never has changed, nor will it ever. Else, the Mayflower never would have sailed.

Much before man created the IRS and such three-letter acronyms, the three-letter word, God, always has and always will remain simply supreme.

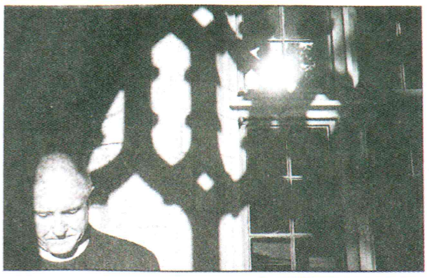
IRS Orders Church to Yield El...

[*All Saints, from Page A1*] to respond demurely and acquiesce in the government's request at this stage. The issues are too close to the quick of their fundamental religious beliefs."

Members of All Saints have a long history of social activism. The sermon that attracted the IRS' attention was delivered by Regas, who was well-known for opposing the Vietnam War, championing female clergy and supporting gays and lesbians in the church.

The medieval-looking church, just east of City Hall, seems to embody staid, moneyed Old Pasadena, but the liberal outlook goes back decades. During World War II, its rector spoke out against the internment of Japanese Americans. Regas headed the church for 28 years before retiring in 1995.

Exactly how the congregants



DAMON WINTER *Los Angeles Times*

SUMMONS: *The Rev. Ed Bacon says: "If the IRS prevails, it will have a chilling effect on the practice of religion in America."*

In July, the IRS warned 15,000 tax-exempt groups across the nation, including churches and

new enforcement program, the Political Activity Compliance Initiative. Under it, the IRS will

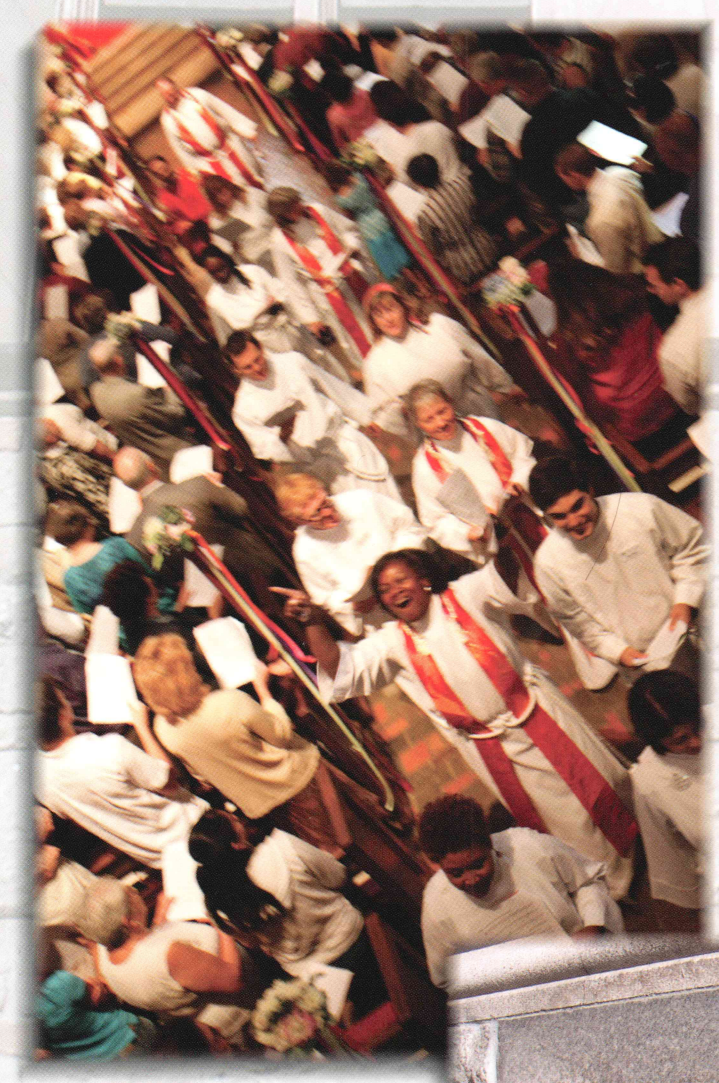
tigated more than 200 or... tions nationwide.

Federal law prohibits ... from releasing the na... those under investigati... the agency in July said it ... cases pending — 40 ... churches.

Among them is the ... case against the NAAC... drew the IRS' attention ... 2004, after the organ... chairman, Julian Bon... cized the Bush adminis... policies on civil rights.

All Saints came unde... vestigation shortly afte... delivered a guest serm... depicted Jesus in a moc... with then-presidential ... dates George W. Bush a... F. Kerry.

The sermon, which ... endorse or oppose an... candidates, addressed t... and religious implica...



ALL SAINTS CHURCH
132 N. Euclid Avenue, Pasadena, CA. 91101 626.796.1172
www.allsaints-pas.org